

# U.S. Representative Rodney P. Frelinghuysen

## Reports to New Jersey



11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

106<sup>th</sup> Congress – First Session

### President's Decision To Join NATO Strike Against Serb Forces Dominates Agenda; Congress Works To Restore America's Military Readiness

Dear Friends,

As the war in the Balkans grips our nation, I know you share both my concerns and prayers for our brave, young men and women who are serving with NATO forces to restore peace in Kosovo. Their sense of duty and self-sacrifice should be an inspiration for all Americans.

But like many of you, my reservations about our Balkan policy stem from my belief that President Clinton has failed to make it clear what our objectives in Kosovo are, nor has he outlined an "exit" strategy for our troops. I am also troubled by the mounting costs of this mission and its impact on our military's readiness in light of continued threats from North Korea, Iraq, Iran and Libya, not to mention the dozens of ongoing missions in which the President has involved our nation.

As a new member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I see more and more evidence that past cuts in our national defense spending by the Clinton Administration have seriously strained the resources of our military. And, despite these cuts, the President has deployed our troops on more missions around the world than any other period in our history.

Our conflicts in the Balkans and Iraq have revealed a true national defense emergency. Consider the following:

- the U.S. is critically low on air launched cruise missiles.
- shortages of "smart" weaponry are real and conversions abound.
- a severe shortage of air and naval crews is requiring us to mobilize thirty thousand reservists.
- America is pulling aircraft carriers out of the Pacific in order to cover the Mediterranean, despite tensions in the Taiwan straits and on the Korean peninsula.
- the U.S. is transferring aircraft from Turkey to the Balkan theater, weakening our effort to contain Saddam Hussein.

Since the end of the Gulf War, our military, overall, has shrunk by 40 percent. Army Divisions have dropped from 18 to 10. Fighter wings have decreased from 24 to 13. Our Navy used to have 546 ships, but now has only 333. All the while, our deployments have increased. In the 1990s alone, the U.S. Army has been deployed 33 times – compare that to 10 deployments for the entire period between 1950 and 1989!

Clearly, this Congress must pass legislation to address the needs of America's military and our nation's security. Only by doing so will we have a chance to prevail in the Balkans without damaging America's interests elsewhere. We will look at all areas – from munitions to weapons procurement to technological modernization to training and personnel.

Congress has no greater duty than to ensure that our brave, young men and women, who put their lives on the line for our country, have the resources and equipment they need to do their jobs safely and successfully!

#### A Budget To Secure America's Future

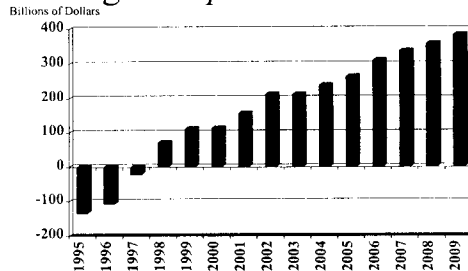
And while Kosovo will remain a backdrop for much of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, we are making progress on many other fronts as well. Congress has just passed the first "surplus" budget in a generation. This is big news because the last budget of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:

- locks away every penny of the Social Security Trust Fund surpluses to ensure retirement security for three generations of Americans.
- sets aside more money than the President to strengthen Social Security and Medicare -- \$1.8 trillion compared to \$1.68 trillion.

- creates a "safe deposit box" to make sure the Social Security Trust Funds can no longer be raided by the Federal government to pay for other programs and to mask the deficit.
- increases America's investment in the education of our children.
- enacts historic tax relief.
- pays down the national debt by \$450 billion more than the President.
- maintains the spending discipline from the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.
- provides the additional resources to properly train, equip, and pay our young men and women in uniform.

#### THERE REALLY IS A SURPLUS AND IT BELONGS TO YOU!

##### Budget Surplus Outlook 1999



A strong economy and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 have helped the Federal government project budget surpluses for the next decade.

Most Americans are skeptical about our nation's budget surplus. I don't blame them – the numbers alone are hard to comprehend, let alone believe. Our nation's budget surplus is projected to total \$2.6 trillion over the next ten years. The surplus enables Congress to lock away \$1.8 trillion to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare. The surplus also allows us to pay down the national debt, increase our investment in education, strengthen our national defense and continue to provide working Americans with responsible tax relief.

#### Looking Out For New Jersey's Fair Share

Finally, as New Jersey's only Member of Congress to serve on the House Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight for New Jersey's priorities while working within the confines of our balanced budget agreement. My focus continues to be:

- Preserving New Jersey's open spaces.
  - Protecting and expanding our National Parks and Wildlife Refuges.
  - Cleaning up toxic waste at Superfund sites.
  - Resolving the problem of aircraft noise.
  - Improving New Jersey's mass transit system.
  - Keeping New Jersey's port open for business.
  - Trying to help reduce property taxes by leading the effort to fully fund the Federal government's share of special education.
- Aside from our budget priorities and my work for New Jersey, my active support for managed care reform, campaign finance reform, and increasing our nation's investment in the important fields of scientific and medical research to help discover new technologies and cure more life-threatening diseases as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, remains strong.

As always, hearing from you on these or any other subjects is important to me. As Congress moves forward on an agenda to secure America's future, I welcome your input and will continue to listen to your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

*Rodney P. Frelinghuysen*



Your Congressman would like to hear from you! Please write, call or "e-mail" him at the addresses listed on the back page.



## IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Special Education Funding, "Ed-Flex," Youth Advisory Council***SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING  
COULD BUILD SCHOOLS, REDUCE  
PROPERTY TAXES**

If the Federal government had kept its promise over the last 20 years to fund 40 percent of the costs of providing special education, millions of dollars in school districts across America currently tied up in paying the local share as well as most of the Federal government's share of special education, would be available each year to hire more teachers, build classrooms or modernize schools. This aid for local school budgets could also help municipalities to reduce property taxes for local residents.

The Congressman sent a letter to House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich urging that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) be fully funded in the year 2000 budget. 75 of his House colleagues from both the Republican and Democratic parties signed onto his letter.

"In New Jersey alone, we lose \$300 million each year that our local municipalities and taxpayers are forced to pay to make up for the Federal government's share of IDEA. That's \$300 million every year that could be better spent on hiring more teachers, building new classrooms or modernizing schools all across New Jersey. I, and 75 of my colleagues, believe that before we create new educational programs, let's make good on our promise to pay our obligation to fund IDEA and free up these extra dollars for the states and children," he said.

IDEA was first passed in 1975 in order to provide public education for special needs children.

The nation's Governors at their annual winter meeting called upon the Congress to fully fund IDEA. And on March 3, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a 7 to 2 vote that public schools are obligated to pay for various medical care costs associated with providing special education.

The Federal government is not obeying current law by not providing 40 percent of the funding to cover the costs of educating students with special needs. And again this year, President Clinton has failed to fully fund IDEA in his annual budget. As it stands, the Federal



Congressman Frelinghuysen is joined by students at Rockaway Borough Middle School after speaking to them about legislative issues in Congress. He says that no matter which school he visits, student always ask the toughest questions. From school funding issues to foreign policy, 11<sup>th</sup> District students are aware of the issues that face America. He visits area schools often and recently has visited students at the following schools: **Jefferson Township Middle School, Bragg Elementary School in Chester, Brooklawn Middle School in Parsippany, Black River Middle School in Chester, Boonton High School, Central Middle School in Parsippany, West Morris Central High School in Chester, Morristown Beard School, Livingston High School, Alfred C. MacKinnon Wharton Middle School, Pequannock Valley Middle School, Sparta High School, Long Valley Middle School, Central Avenue Elementary School in Madison, Butler High School, and Somerville Middle School.**

government only pays 11 percent of the cost instead of the 40 percent promised.

Congress has consistently done its best to increase what the Federal government pays for special education, and over the last three years has achieved a \$2 billion increase. As a result of the Congressman's letter, the House Budget proposal for FY2000 contains an increase of \$1 billion for special education and the potential for an even greater increase depending on the budget surplus total.

**"ED FLEX" BILL PASSES HOUSE**

Congress passed H.R. 800, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act. This bill, supported by all 50 of the nation's Governors, allows local school districts greater flexibility in how Federal education dollars are spent. It empowers local schools to determine how best to spend Federal education funds. The Congressman said, "I supported this bill because local school board members, principals and teachers are better positioned than Federal bureaucrats to make decisions that will improve the education of our children - that's why it is important local educators have the flexibility to make decisions about where funding is needed most!"

**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL  
TACKLES TOUGH ISSUES**

The Congressman believes it is important to hear from New Jersey's young people. So this year he created a

Youth Advisory Council. His Youth Advisory Council is composed of students from high schools all over the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. They have had discussions about many of the issues that confront our nation. For example, in a recent meeting at Dover High School, Youth Advisory Council members learned about Social Security. He was impressed by the initiative of these students to be involved and get informed. Social Security is an important program for all Americans, and not just those who are currently retired or are about to retire. In another recent meeting at Parsippany Hills High School, the students met with Picatinny Arsenal Commander Brig. General John Geis to discuss national defense issues confronting our nation, and our armed forces. For more information about the Congressman's Youth Advisory Council, call his office in Morristown at (973) 984-0711.

**RESOLVING NEW JERSEY'S AIRCRAFT NOISE PROBLEM**

The Congressman introduced legislation to expedite the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) redesign of the airspace over New Jersey and New York to help reduce the problem of aircraft noise. The FAA's original plan would have taken five years, but his legislation would reduce that time to two years. "Aircraft noise continues to be a problem for my constituents, and a priority of mine in Congress," he said, "five years is too long to wait for my constituents whose windows and nerves rattle each time a jet flies over their home!" He also co-sponsored legislation to mandate the FAA implement a live 'ocean routing' test to address aircraft noise. Ocean routing, long discussed as a potential alternative flight plan for planes departing out of Newark, would fly aircraft out over the ocean instead of over more populated neighborhoods, thus theoretically reducing noise over residential areas.

**MASS TRANSIT PRIORITY**

The Congressman has sent a letter to Rep. Frank Wolf, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Appropriations, to convey his strong support for New Jersey's Urban Core Project. "New Jersey's Urban Core Project is critical to reducing congestion and improving the flow of people and goods throughout the State," he said. The Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit System, part of the project, is projected to carry 100,000 passengers daily when fully operational. The Newark-Elizabeth Line, will link Newark Broad Street Station to Newark Penn Station, providing passengers on the Morris and Essex Line access to the Newark business district.

## An Environment For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Clean, Safe, Open



As the most densely populated state in the country, environmental concerns are a top priority for New Jerseyans. And as a Member of Congress, not a day goes by when I am not working on some effort to protect and preserve our environment.

More and more families are making New Jersey their home, and large companies are also moving into our state because of the benefits of doing business here. While our economy is growing stronger, over-development has harmed our environment in the past and still threatens it today.

Protecting New Jersey's open spaces will continue to be a priority for me in Congress. I have been successful in expanding the **Morristown National Historical Park**, the **Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**, and in helping New Jersey to purchase **Sterling Forest** and endangered wetlands around our state. I will also continue to demand that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleans up toxic waste at **Superfund** sites in our area and around New Jersey. We've seen some progress in the cleanup of toxic waste, especially at the asbestos dump near the Great Swamp in **Millington, NJ**, and at **Pepe Field, in Boonton, NJ**.

## A Prescription For Good Health



*Advocates of all ages lobby Congressman Frelinghuysen in his Capitol Hill office on the need to increase research dollars for juvenile diabetes research. He has been a strong advocate for America's investment in medical research to find cures for diabetes, cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Last year, through his work as NJ's only Member of Congress on the House Appropriations Committee, he was instrumental in securing an additional \$2 billion for research at the National Institutes of Health.*

### Frelinghuysen Co-sponsors Managed Care Reform Act

In town meetings, and across the District, when the Congressman talks to people about what can be done to improve health care in America, they tell him they want to have more control over the decisions being made about the care they receive. The Managed Care Reform Act, H.R. 719, gives patients more choices to make regarding their health care and by providing access, accountability and strong patient protections, it brings together the areas where there is already bipartisan agreement in Congress. Among the Act's major provisions, it:

- ◆ ensures enrollees have the option of selecting a health plan with 'point-of-service' coverage
- ◆ covers emergency room care, wherever and whenever needed
- ◆ lets parents choose pediatricians as the primary care providers for their kids, and gives women direct access to OB/GYN care
- ◆ opens communications between patients and doctors
- ◆ provides patients with access to clinical trials and non-formulary medications

You can download a copy of the Managed Care Reform Act from the Internet at:

"<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c106query.html>" – simply enter the bill number, H.R. 719, in the search section.

### ***Turning A Nightmare Into A Dream, EPA Agrees To Work On Education Center Land For Great Swamp***

Turning a contaminated Superfund site into an educational center at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge may sound like a miracle, but if Congressman Frelinghuysen has his way, a miracle is exactly what will happen.

He got the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to agree to work with him on handing over the property commonly referred to as the "Tielman property" in **Long Hill Township** to the U.S. Department of Interior for possible use as an educational resource center for the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. He recently met with the EPA's Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division Richard Caspe in his Capitol Hill office.

The site, once an asbestos dump, was purchased from the family by the EPA last year. During the EPA's original cleanup of the asbestos site, an EPA subcontractor replaced soil taken from the property with contaminated fill, thus making the problem at this Superfund site worse. Cleanup of the site has been extensive since the EPA took ownership.

"From a nightmare to a dream, I hope that this Superfund site will become an educational center so that visitors and school children from our area and all over our state can learn about, and enjoy the scenic, natural beauty of our national treasure, the Great Swamp," he said.

"I have always felt that when the site is cleaned up, it would make the perfect addition to the Great Swamp. It really could be a win-win-win situation, too. The Tielman's had their problem resolved, the EPA is cleaning up the site, and now everyone may benefit from a much needed educational center at the Great Swamp," he added.

### *Land and Water Conservation Fund Is An Important Tool*

#### *To Protect And Maintain America's Irreplaceable Assets – Our Wildlife Refuges, Parks, And Forests*

In America's most densely-populated state, New Jersey, it is especially important that we do everything in our power to preserve and protect our green spaces. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped the Garden State to do so. In the past, the Congressman has been able to utilize the Fund to expand Morristown National Historical Park, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and to help purchase Sterling Forest. "This is not new money—it's already in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which receives its funding from the receipts of off-shore oil and gas drilling leases, so it doesn't cost the taxpayers anything or add to the budget. Annual receipts are anticipated to be \$3 to \$4 billion," he said. He was joined by more than 70 of his House colleagues from both sides of the aisle in a letter to House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich urging that the LWCF be fully funded. Last year, the Congressman was successful in having the LWCF increased by \$700 million.

# ★ NEW JERSEY AGENDA ★

## New Appropriations Assignments



Rep. Frelinghuysen continues to be the only Member of Congress from New Jersey to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. The Congressman has gained seniority on Appropriations, and has also received two new assignments. He is now the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, which includes overseeing the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency.

He also was appointed to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the panel with jurisdiction over all national security matters including the entire budgets for the Pentagon and intelligence agencies. He will continue to be a forceful advocate of Picatinny Arsenal, as well as the rest of New Jersey's military installations. Finally, he remains on the Energy and Water Subcommittee which is important in terms of New Jersey's key priorities including the dredging of Port Jersey to keep the New Jersey/New York Port open for business; the protection of the Jersey shore; flood control and the purchase of critical wetlands.

## Contacting the Congressman

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### WASHINGTON:

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(202)225-5034

### E-MAIL:

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Recent Interns in the Congressman's Washington office include: *Carolyn Kappen of Dover, Doug Cohen of Livingston, Brian McDonald of Stirling, Jacqueline Sierodzinski of Long Valley, and Krista Carman of Whippany.*

**Many thanks for a job well done!**

## The Internet Opens the Door to Your Government

### Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen:

<http://www.house.gov/frelinghuysen/>

### U.S. House of Representatives:

<http://www.house.gov/>

### Library of Congress:

<http://www.loc.gov/>

### Social Security Administration: <http://www.ssa.gov/>

### The White House and Office of the President:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

### Tax Information, Internal Revenue Service:

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/>

### U.S. State Dept., Travel Services, Passports:

<http://travel.state.gov/>

## WATCH FOR A TOWN MEETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

*The Congressman recently met residents and concerned citizens at town meetings in Florham Park, Lincoln Park and Long Hill Township. Look for notices in your local newspapers for dates, times and locations for more town meetings this Spring and Summer! Come out and meet the Congressman, and don't forget to bring your questions and concerns.*

**E-Mail Alert:** Some of you may have received an e-mail about an upcoming vote in Congress to make dialing up the Internet a long distance telephone call – the rumor is FALSE! There is no such vote, nor are there plans in Congress to do so. Dialing up your Internet Service Provider is still just like making a local call. The Internet is an amazing educational tool for millions of Americans, and increasing the costs of getting on line by putting extra charges or taxes on Internet access is the last thing Congressman Frelinghuysen wants to happen. The Federal Communications Commission's web-site has information pertaining to a new rule it passed regarding how telephone companies pay each other for phone line traffic, and which may have caused some of the confusion. [Click on: www.fcc.gov/](http://www.fcc.gov/) for more information.

## Frelinghuysen Hosts First-Ever Picatinny Day in DC

The Congressman decided that along with his new assignment on Defense Appropriations, it was time to put a face on Picatinny Arsenal in Washington, DC, so he invited Picatinny area community leaders to spend the day with him in Washington to meet with Pentagon officials, and House and Senate Defense Appropriations Committee staffers. The group also had meetings with key staffers in the offices of Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli and Congressmen Jim Saxton and Rob Andrews. A briefing by Chairman of the House Armed Services Research and Development Subcommittee Curt Weldon (R-PA) rounded out the day.

"I think current events make it clear that Picatinny's important mission is more critical to our nation's security than ever. For the first time since World War II, America is involved in fighting conflicts on two separate fronts – both in Kosovo and the Persian Gulf. In much of the news that comes out of these conflicts, we learn that advanced technology is the key to our troops' success and safety. Just as Americans share in the pride of our young men and women in uniform as they serve our nation, New Jerseyans can also be proud of the great minds at Picatinny whose excellence in research and development of new technologies for our military is also a part of America's involvement in the Persian Gulf and Kosovo," the Congressman said.



*Mrs. Irene Nieradka of Sparta accepts the Bronze Star from the Congressman on behalf of her late husband, Mr. Edwin Nieradka, a World War II veteran and former employee of Picatinny Arsenal. The Congressman now serves as the Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and continues to be a strong advocate in Congress for New Jersey's veterans.*

Congress of the United States  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Official Business



*Rodney P. Frelinghuysen*

M.C.

Bulk Rate

W/S Carrier Route